

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A hanger comprising:

a first hook portion extending above a central body portion;

first and second arms, each extending laterally outward from the central body portion to a respective first and second distal end;

a first locking bar having a first end secured distally along the first arm and extending inward towards the central body portion beneath the first arm to a free second end; and

a first support bar having a third end secured distally along the first arm and extending inward towards the central body portion beneath the first locking bar to a fourth end,

wherein the locking bar is dimensioned to deflect to interface the support bar under a predetermined minimum force; and

~~a second support bar having a fifth end secured distally along the second arm and extending inward towards the central body portion beneath the second arm to a sixth end.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising

a second support bar having a fifth end secured distally along the second arm and extending inward towards the central body portion beneath the second arm to a sixth end; and

a second locking bar having a seventh end secured distally along the second arm and extending inward towards the central body portion beneath the second arm and above the second support bar to ~~an~~ a free eighth end.

3. (Currently Amended) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein the free second end of the first locking bar extends further inward towards the central body portion than the fourth end of the first support bar.
4. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein ~~one of the fourth end of the first support bar and the sixth end of the second support bar~~ is secured to the hanger.
5. (Currently Amended) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein a lower surface of the first locking bar and an upper surface of the first support bar are provided with complementary interlocking profiles.
6. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein the width of the first locking bar narrows from the first end to the second end.
7. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second arms is swept downward.
8. (Currently Amended) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein the first locking bar is swept upward, whereby the free second end is above the first end.

9. (Currently Amended) The hanger according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the first ~~and second support bars~~ bar is swept upward, whereby the fourth ~~or sixth~~ end is above the third ~~or fifth~~ end, ~~respectively~~.
10. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising an inclined edge rising above one of the first and second arms along a side of the central body portion.
11. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising a recess formed in a top surface of one of the first and second arms.
12. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising a flange along the top surface of one of the first and second arms.
13. (Original) The hanger according to claim 12, wherein the flange has a greater width in the region of the first or second distal end than in the region of the central body portion.
14. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising a second hook extending beneath the first or second arm.
15. (Original) The hanger according to claim 1, further comprising an injection molded plastic material.
16. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein the second end of the first locking bar extends at least to the sixth end of the second support bar and above the second support bar.

17. (Withdrawn) A hanger comprising:
- a first hook portion extending above a central body portion;
 - first and second arms, each extending laterally outward from the central body portion to a respective first and second distal end;
 - a first locking bar having a first end secured along the first arm and extending inward toward the central body portion and beneath the first arm to a second end;
 - and
 - a first support bar having a third end secured along the second arm and extending inward towards the central body portion at least to the first end of the first locking bar and beneath the first locking bar to a fourth end.
18. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 17, wherein the locking bar is dimensioned to deflect to interface the supporting bar under a predetermined minimum force.
19. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 17, wherein the supporting bar and locking bar are dimensioned to support together a predetermined maximum force.
20. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 17, wherein a lower surface of the locking bar and an upper surface of the first support bar are provided with complementary profiles.
21. (Withdrawn) A hanger comprising:

a first hook portion extending above a central body portion;

a first arm extending laterally outward from the central body portion to a first distal end;

a first locking bar having a first fixed end secured along the first arm and extending inward beyond a midpoint of the hanger and beneath the first arm to a first free end; and

a first support bar having a second fixed end secured along the first arm and extending inward beyond a midpoint of the hanger and beneath the first locking bar to a second free end.

22. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 21 wherein the locking bar is dimensioned to deflect to interface the supporting bar under a predetermined minimum force.
23. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 21, wherein the supporting bar and locking bar are dimensioned to support together a predetermined maximum force.
24. (Withdrawn) The hanger according to claim 21, wherein a lower surface of the locking bar and an upper surface of the first support bar are provided with complementary profiles.

Claims 25-28 (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for hanging a flexible article, the method comprising:

- (a) providing a hanger having at least a hook portion, a support bar beneath the hook portion and a flexible locking bar having a free end, the flexible locking bar between the support bar and the hook portion;
- (b) folding the flexible article over itself at least once;
- (c) positioning one side of the folded article between the locking bar and the support bar, including deflecting the free end of the flexible locking bar out of the plane of the hanger to assist in the positioning;
- (d) positioning another side of the folded article above the locking bar; and
- (e) allowing the weight of the article to deflect the locking bar into engagement with the support, thereby securing the side of the folded article located therebetween.

30. (Currently Amended) The method for hanging a flexible article according to claim 29, further comprising suspending the hanger from a support structure by the hook portion.

31. (Currently Amended) The method for hanging a flexible article according to claim 29, wherein a lower surface of the locking bar and an upper surface of the support bar are provided with complementary profiles.

32. (New) The hanger according to claim 2, wherein the sixth end of the second support bar is secured to the hanger.

33. (New) The hanger according to claim 2, wherein the second support bar is swept upward, whereby the sixth end is above the fifth end.